

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,
CHAIRMAN

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK
PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA
STEPHEN F. LYNCH, MASSACHUSETTS
BRIAN HIGGINS, NEW YORK
JOHN A. YARMUTH, KENTUCKY
BRUCE L. BRALEY, IOWA
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
BETTY McCOLLUM, MINNESOTA
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND
PAUL W. HODES, NEW HAMPSHIRE
CHRISTOPHER S. MURPHY, CONNECTICUT
JOHN P. SARBANES, MARYLAND
PETER WELCH, VERMONT

ONE HUNDRED TENTH CONGRESS

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (202) 225-5051
FACSIMILE (202) 225-4784
MINORITY (202) 225-5074

www.oversight.house.gov

TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA,
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

DAN BURTON, INDIANA
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CONNECTICUT
JOHN M. McHUGH, NEW YORK
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA
CHRIS CANNON, UTAH
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO
DARRELL E. ISSA, CALIFORNIA
KENNY MARCHANT, TEXAS
LYNN A. WESTMORELAND, GEORGIA
PATRICK T. McHENRY, NORTH CAROLINA
VIRGINIA FOXX, NORTH CAROLINA
BRIAN P. BILBRAY, CALIFORNIA
BILL SALI, IDAHO
JIM JORDAN, OHIO

March 13, 2008

The Honorable Michael B. Mukasey
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

I am writing to request documents relating to the grantmaking policies and practices in the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) within the Justice Department. Concerns about this issue were brought to my attention by Congressman Timothy Walz.

The OJJDP supports efforts to prevent juvenile delinquency, such as programs to stem school violence, childhood substance abuse, and gang-related activity. OJJDP provides grants to selected state, local, and community-based organizations through a competitive awards process in order to “develop and support programs and replicate tested approaches to delinquency prevention, treatment, and control.”¹

According to a recent article in the trade publication, *Youth Today*, recent OJJDP grants have been awarded in a noncompetitive manner, in some cases with highly ranked applicants rejected in favor of lower ranked competitors.² In one example described by *Youth Today*, the OJJDP awarded \$500,000 to the World Golf Association, even while its grant proposal was scored lower than that of 38 other applicants in the technical review.

In order to examine these allegations, I request that you provide the Committee the following information:

¹ Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, *About OJJDP* (online at <http://ojjdp.ncjrs.org/about/DivList.asp>) (accessed on Mar. 4, 2008).

² *For Juvenile Justice, a Panel of One*, *Youth Today* (Dec./Jan. 2008).

The Honorable Michael B. Mukasey
March 13, 2008
Page 2

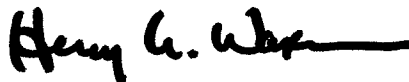
1. A list of all applicants for discretionary grants from the OJJDP for Fiscal Year 2007, including the proposed funding amount, category of juvenile delinquency addressed, whether the application received external peer review, the applicant's technical evaluation scores, and, if the applicant was funded, the amount awarded;
2. For discretionary grants awarded in Fiscal Year 2007, all documents related to their award, including grant applications; records and notes from their technical evaluation; the official decision memoranda; and communications within OJJDP and between OJJDP officials and any outside entity;
3. All communications to or from OJJDP Administrator J. Robert Flores relating to all grants considered for awards in Fiscal Year 2007; and
4. All OJJDP and DOJ policies governing the grant competition and award process.

Please provide these documents to the Committee by April 4, 2008. In addition, please provide the Committee with a briefing on the OJJDP's grantmaking policies and practices, including the issues raised in the *Youth Today* article, by March 28, 2008.

The Committee on Oversight and Government Reform is the principal oversight committee in the House of Representatives and has broad oversight jurisdiction as set forth in House Rule X. Enclosed with this letter is a document providing additional information about how to respond to the Committee's document request.

If you have any questions regarding this request and to schedule the requested briefing, please have your staff contact Christopher Davis or John Williams of the Committee staff at (202) 225-5420.

Sincerely,



Henry A. Waxman
Chairman

Enclosure

cc: Tom Davis
Ranking Minority Member